



## PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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July 31, 2003

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS AND LOBBYISTS ISSUED CIVIL PENALTIES AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING**

**Olympia** – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Susan Brady, found three elected officials, seven lobbyists and one lobbyist firm in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Thursday in Olympia.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state law to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement (Form F-1) with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15<sup>th</sup> reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

Government officials, who failed to file and were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing, all had a history of past violations. They included:

**Scott Bernhard**, former City Council Member for the City of Liberty Lake, was found in violation of state law and assessed a civil penalty of \$100 of which all was suspended if he complies with all filing requirements within 30 days.

**Gilbert Warren**, School Director for Mount Vernon School District #356, was found in violation of state law and assessed a civil penalty of \$200.

**Craig Holmes**, School Director for the Central Valley School District #35, was found in violation of state law and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

The elected officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent two letters asking them to comply with the reporting requirements.

The seven lobbyists and one lobbyist firm who were found in violation at the brief enforcement hearings failed to timely file the lobbyist monthly expense report. Each lobbyist had received a warning letter for earlier problems with timely reporting. Five of the lobbyists had also been found in violation earlier this year.

Lobbyists who violated state law and assessed a civil penalty were:

**Holly Chisa**, employed by the Washington Food Industry, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100 with \$50 suspended provided no further violations of the statute occur for a two year period.

**Diane Nelson**, employed by the Chehalis Confederated Tribes, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100 with \$50 suspended provided no further violations of the statute occur for a two year period.

**Delight Roberts**, employed by the Children's Alliance, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100 with \$100 suspended provided no further violations of the statute occur for a two year period.

**Janis Avery**, employed by Treehouse, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

**Laura Groshong**, employed by Northwest Alliance for Psychiatric Study, Northwest Center for Psychoanalysis; Seattle Institute for Psychoanalysis; Washington State Coalition of Mental Health Professionals and Consumers and Washington State Society for Clinical Social Work, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100 with \$50 suspended provided no further violations of the statute occur for a two year period.

**Jonathan Guzzo**, employed by Washington Trails Association, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100 with \$50 suspended provided no further violations of the statute occur for a two year period.

**Anne Tweedt**, employed by Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

The lobbyist firm found in violation was:

**Triplett & Associates, Inc.**, employed by the Council of Independent Tobacco Manufacturers of America; Diageo; Harnish Group Inc.: Single Stick Inc., Smokeless Tobacco Council; Tyson Foods Inc.; Washington Association of Building Officials and Cigar Association of America, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

Officials and lobbyists found in violation at the hearing may appeal the decision to the full, five-member Commission for review of the action taken by the Chair.

Civil penalties were determined using a standard process that increases or decreases depending upon circumstances such as past violations or if reports are filed at the time of the enforcement hearing.